

Message Text

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40
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6102

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0376

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, MA, US
SUBJ: MALAGASY GRAPHITE SHIPMENTS TO US

REF: A. STATE 050388 B. TANANARIVE 0357

1. JOHN MCDERMOTT, VP, JOSEPH DIXON CRUCIBLE CO. VISITED TANANARIVE MARCH 14-19 AS REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS OWN FIRM AS WELL AS ASBURY AND VESUVIUS TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF SHIPPING MALAGASY GRAPHITE TO U.S. WRAPPED IN POLYETHYLENE SHEETING AND DISPOSABLE MERINO SLINGS AS DESCRIBED PARA 2, REFTEL. ALL FIVE GRAPHITE PRODUCERS AND LOCAL AGENT OF IRAN LINES IMPRESSED WITH IDEA AND WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY.

2. CONTINGENT ON FINAL APPROVAL OF HEADQUARTERS IRAN LINES, TANATAVE PORT AUTHORITIES, AND MALAGASY GOVERNMENT, OPERATION WOULD BE HANDLED AS FOLLOWS. U.S. GRAPHITE IMPORTERS WOULD PURCHASE POLYETHYLENE AND SLINGS WHICH IRAN LINES WOULD TRANSPORT PERIODICALLY TO TAMATAVE. IRAN LINES AGENT, FOR FEE TO BE PAID BY U.S. BUYERS, WOULD HANDLE STORAGE OF PACKING MATERIALS AND PREPARATION OF GRAPHITE FOR SHIPMENT WITHIN TAMATAVE PORT AREA. HOPEFULLY, SINCE PACKAGING MATERIALS WILL NOT LEAVE PORT AREA, THERE WILL BE NO CUSTOMS PROBLEMS. IRAN LINES HAS PROMISED MAKE MONTHLY CALLS AT TAMATAVE AND PRODUCERS EXPECTED PLAN DELIVERIES AT PORT TO ALLOW SHIPMENT OF 500 TONS PER MONTH. (THERE IS PRESENTLY MORE THAN 1000 TONS AT TAMATAVE AWAITING UNCLASSIFIED

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SHIPMENT TO U.S.). IRAN LINES DOES NOT WISH TO CARRY MORE

THAN THIS AMOUNT BECAUSE OF COFFEE SHIPMENTS.

3. PRODUCERS AND IRAN LINES AGENT WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN APPROVAL TAMATAVE PORT AUTHORITIES AND GOMR WITH EMBASSY ASSISTING IF NECESSARY. EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED MCDERMOTT DURING CALL ON DIRECTOR OF MINES AND ENERGY WHO PROMISED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IF NEEDED TO GET GOMR APPROVAL.

4. FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRODUCERS MCDERMOTT NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN MALAGASY GRAPHITE PRODUCTION OF MINERS' ASSOCIATION, THAT PRODUCERS CONSIDERING POSSIBLE 40 0/0 INCREASE IN PRICE OF GRAPHITE DUE TO RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED GENERAL WAGE INCREASE FOR LOWER PAID LABORERS (REF B.) AND OTHER RISES IN PRODUCTION COSTS.

MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

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